

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205

agriculture.arkansas.gov

(501) 225-1598

Wes Ward Secretary of Agriculture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/1/20

CONTACT: Anna Thrash, (501) 529-2689, anna.thrash@agriculture.arkansas.gov

October Proclaimed as Arkansas Farm to School Month

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Governor Asa Hutchinson has proclaimed October as Arkansas Farm to School Month. This recognition is part of nationwide efforts to connect schools, early childhood education sites, and other organizations with farms to bring local, healthy food to children. Find the Governor's Arkansas Farm to School video here, and the full Arkansas Farm to School proclamation here.

The theme of this year's Farm to School month is "Celebrating Local!" The Arkansas Department of Agriculture has created a <u>media and promotion toolkit</u> to help schools, early childhood education sites, farms, and others share information about Arkansas Farm to School Month. Find the toolkit and more information about Arkansas Farm to School Month on our website at https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-programs/farm-to-school-month/.

"The Arkansas Farm to School program has experienced tremendous growth over the past year," said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. "We celebrate its successes this month by applauding the efforts of those involved in bringing local food to children. From the farmer who produces food to the educators and parents who teach children about gardening, cooking, and nutrition, all are critical to the creation and sustainability of strong local food systems."

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture and Heifer USA are also "Celebrating Local!" by hosting a virtual farm tour on October 28, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. on YouTube Live. Attendees will virtually tour Heifer Ranch's certified organic production gardens, hear expert advice on gardening best practices, and celebrate local successes from across the state. Attendees will be able to ask questions and interact throughout the live event. The registration link for the event is: https://www.cognitoforms.com/ArkansasAgriculture1/ArkansasFarmToSchoolMonth.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit <u>agriculture.arkansas.gov.</u>

